

Religious Freedom in North Korea: Update and Options

Thursday, March 30, 2006, 2:00–4:00 p.m.
Wohlstetter Conference Center, Twelfth Floor, AEI
1150 Seventeenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036

A recent report from the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), “Thank You Father Kim Il Sung,” documents extreme oppression of religious freedom in North Korea and elimination of all forms of independent worship. The officially proclaimed personality cult of the Kim regime has been forced upon the public as a state religion. For most North Koreans, the only personal contact they will have with religion will be the denigration of Western religion in propaganda films at mandatory weekly sessions at Kim Il Sung Study Halls, or even the arrest of a friend or relative accused of illegal religious activity.

What impact do conditions of religious freedom have on policies involving humanitarian relief and North Korean refugee issues? What can the United States and its partners do to improve religious freedom in North Korea? How do foreign aid and external pressure affect Pyongyang’s human rights behavior? Have there been any changes in North Korea’s record on religious freedom since the beginning of the “sunshine diplomacy” era? On March 30, AEI and USCIRF will co-host a panel discussion on these and other questions about the future of religious freedom in North Korea.

1:45 p.m. Registration

2:00 *Welcome:* MICHAEL CROMARTIE, USCIRF
 NICHOLAS EBERSTADT, AEI

2:10 *Keynote Speaker:* JAY LEFKOWITZ, Department of State

2:40 *Panelists:* DAVID HAWK, author of *Thank You Father Kim Il Sung*
 SUNG-YOON LEE, Harvard University

4:00 Adjournment

I will attend the event on religious freedom in Korea on Thursday, March 30.

Name: _____

Title: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

☐ Please check if this is a new address.

Please register online at www.aei.org/events or by faxing this form to 202.862.7171. Shortly after the event occurs, a video webcast will be available on the AEI website at www.aei.org/event1276

For more information, please contact Chris Griffin at cgriffin@aei.org.

For media inquiries, please contact Veronique Rodman at vrodman@aei.org.

☐ I do not plan to attend this event, but please e-mail me related event materials.

If you do not wish to receive fax notifications or invitations in the future, please contact Chris Griffin at cgriffin@aei.org.